

**Town of Brookline Selectmen's Study Committee:  
Waste Reduction and Pay As You Throw (PAYT)**

**Meeting Minutes from 1/15/09**

Submitted by John Dempsey

Attending: Jonathan Ferris (MASS DEP), Peter Ames, John Dempsey, Tommy Vitolo, Ed Gilbert (DPW), Jesse Mermell, Robin MacIlroy, Adam Mitchell, Don Weitzman, Sean Lynn-Jones, and Tom DeMaio.

The meeting was held in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall, 333 Washington Street.

The meeting was called to order at 6 P.M.

**Business:**

**Discussion about what to recommend to the Board of Selectmen about dollar amounts for the refuse fee and the bag fees if Brookline goes to a municipal solid waste PAYT program.**

The Committee started the meeting with a discussion about whether we should advocate for a specific rate structure. Sean felt that we should let the Selectmen set the rate. Robin suggested we make three recommendations, or suggest a range of fee structures. Adam suggested we change the 1<sup>st</sup> sentence in the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph to include after the word fee "in the range". The committee also suggested that we reference the spreadsheet when we talk about rates.

Some of the elements of the discussion included:

- Setting the fees high enough to cover expenses for the length of the contract but not so high as to create big surpluses.
- Take into account the bag company fee of approximately \$.26/bag.
- Remember that the going rate for a heavy-duty, 30-gallon bag in the supermarket is about \$.25.
- Figure the disposal cost for 25 lbs. of trash is a little over \$1.00.
- The program should be revenue neutral.
- Allow for fluctuations/vagaries in the amounts of trash thrown out /increase in recycling/"disappearing" trash.

The committee then spent some time discussing Tom DeMaio's question of what happens if the Town loses customers after a PAYT system is implemented. John and Sean suggested that the Town already saw the larger buildings opt out after the fee was implemented in the 1990s. John reported that Ron Brown told him "It didn't seem like a problem. Just like when recycling became mandatory, residents will embrace it or deal with it." Tommy felt that it might be a way for landlords to shift some of the cost of disposal to their tenants.

The Committee voted to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that, if the Board votes to go to a PAYT program, the Board should set an annual refuse fee in the range of \$140 to \$160. Likewise, the bag fees should be in a range of \$.70 - \$.80 for a 15-gallon bag and \$1.40 - \$1.60 for a 30-gallon bag.

**Discussion about whether the Town should charge residents for their bulky waste, white goods, and items that contain hazardous materials (e.g. Freon for refrigerants).**

The final topic was how to structure the rate for white goods, CRT's and bulky waste. The committee determined that it would be unusual to not charge for the removal of these items when the Town implements a PAYT system. The committee agreed to recommend that residents will continue to be required to call one week ahead of time to schedule removal and DPW will mail them a sticker. The fee will be \$5 for bulky items and \$15 for white goods that contain Freon.

The Committee voted to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that, if the Board votes to go to a PAYT program, the Board should charge residents for the bulky waste, white goods, and items with hazardous materials. The Committee recommends charging in the range of \$5 to \$20 depending on the disposal costs of the items.

**Vote to send the report to the Board of Selectmen**

The Committee voted their approval, and will present their report to the Board of Selectmen on January 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjournment:**

We adjourned at 7:10 P.M.

**Next Meeting:**

The Committee will await the action of the Board of Selectmen.

**Assignments:**

John Dempsey will make the revisions to the report that were discussed in the meeting.

John Dempsey will better organize the FAQs into categories.

Jesse Mermell will get the PAYT Study Committee onto the Tuesday, January 27, 2009, BOS agenda.

John Dempsey will send Mr. Kelliher and Mr. DeMaio final copies of the report in time to be included in the BOS packet that goes out on Friday, January 23, 2009.

